

Good Afternoon, My name is Rusty Meek, I live in Manchester, I'm also a Past State Commander for the VFW, belong to several other veterans organizations, and a member of Congressman John Larson Veterans Committee for the First District. I served 22 year in the United States Navy, Submarine Force. And I have seen a lot of change in this world.

I'm here to testify against S.B. 1016, an act concerning the Digitization of Military Records.

I don't under stand, my personal military records are held in the federal government (Navy Department): in the state for Medical and bonus reasons; in the town, for tax dedications, at the VA for medical treatment, and my safe. I don't understand why the State of Connecticut wants to open another place where someone can try to get information about me.

Why do you want to do this, Several Veterans asked me that same question, why and how come. What is the purpose of this bank?

These are my records, and you or anyone else who want to know about me, just has to go to one of the above places and get the information. Oh, you need my permission! I don't want just anybody looking at my record, without my permission. The Freedom of Information is one excuses these people use; well they can kiss my (Naval Terminology).

There is a lot of information in those records, which a professional can read or steal. Then use my I.D. and put me into a financial hole. Not that I'm there now!

What happened to my record if someone who had access to my records, then, looses the disk or computer, well there goes my information. Just look at what the hackers, have done over the past few months, some big companies got hacked. (Target, and Bank America). Rocky Hill tried to do this a few year ago. It failed, because the veterans did not want it. We veterans, told Rocky Hill, NO, and I'm sticking to my guns, so I'm telling you NO, on bill S. B. 1015.

I checked with the Town of Manchester, they have a copy of my DD214 for tax purposes. It's in a safe place, and I feel I can trust them, I know who they are! If you need information about me, just submit a proper request, and the town will give you the information requested.

If this bill go through, the only other thing I'd like to see in this bill, is that, the town or state shall report, by letter (within 24 hours) that someone requested information about me. This letter should have the name of the company or persons, and what requested the information, and why!

I don't think this is too much to ask. It's not your information they are requesting, it's about me.

I do have another question? Why are you or the state trying to do this. Don't we have enough of our personal records around the state as it is. Is the governor trying to get some new jobs for his friends?

Thank you.